

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Plants and Factories under the Sixth Main Administration, Ministry of Chemical Industry	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
		REFERENCES	

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1. Following is a list of all the plants and factories subordinate to the Sixth Main Administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry

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Sokolov Chemical Works

2. This plant was located in the eastern outskirts of Sokolov [5011N-1238E] along the main road to Karlovy Vary. Constructed at the beginning of the twentieth century, this plant was part of the Union for Chemical and Steel Production (Spolek pro Chemickou a Hutni Vyrobu) before World War II. After 1948 it became an independent national enterprise. Some reconstruction and repairs were made after World War II, but the buildings and equipment remained old. Inasmuch as the plant was located in the center of a mining area and had been undermined, no expansion was planned for the future. The administration building was situated outside of the factory area proper, about 50 m. uphill from the main entrance.

3. The principal products of the plant were calcium carbide, formic acid, and hydrogen peroxide. It was the only producer of formic acid in Czechoslovakia; the production capacity of formic acid about 1,500 metric tons per year. Bottlenecks frequently occurred because of antiquated machinery, particularly in the production of calcium carbide. This production was frequently interrupted for the repair of equipment. Calcium carbide was in especially short supply at the beginning of 1952,

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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because of the frequent bottlenecks and the spiraling needs of the mining industry. For these same reasons, [] the calcium carbide shortage will not be alleviated in the near future. There was also a shortage of formic acid, because of the plant's limited production capacity for it. The shortage was so extreme that formic acid had to be replaced by imported acetic acid. However, since production in the textile industry, the main consumer of formic acid, was being steadily reduced, [] the shortage of formic acid will not last very long.

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4. [] the plant had adequate rail transportation facilities [] Solid products, particularly calcium carbide, were shipped in paper or linen sacks; acids were shipped mainly in tank cars, but also in carboys. The factory supplied its own power [] estimate the labor force at between 2,000 and 2,500 workers who worked, whenever the plant administration could arrange it, in three shifts. Among the workers were a large number of Czechs and Slovaks who had reemigrated from Rumania in 1947 and had settled in neighboring villages which had been abandoned by the Sudeten Germans; these people had very low living and cultural standards.

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5. The general manager was a 33-year-old engineer, (fnu) PETOUTKA, who has been a member of the Communist Party since 1946. He had formerly been chief secretary to the General Director of the Czechoslovak Chemical Works (the predecessor of the Ministry of Chemical Industry) and, simultaneously, head of the Communist organization in the Czechoslovak Chemical Works.

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The chief engineer was (fnu) CERNY

Urxovy Works

6. Located in Ostrava not far from the airfield, Urxovy Works, formerly known as the Rutgers Works, was a fairly modern plant built in the 1920's and partly reconstructed and expanded after World War II. Plans for further expansion were under consideration []

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Tar and tar derivatives were its principal products []

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its production of phenol and cresol was very slight.

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[] its production capacity was not great enough for the demands made on its products. Approximately 3,000 workers were employed at the plant, but a shortage of manpower often prevented operation in three shifts. Railroad facilities were adequate, with spur tracks leading alongside the various buildings.

[] BREZINA, a former worker in the plant, replaced FRANTISEK SOMARA as the administrative deputy when the latter was dismissed in the last part of 1951.

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Jodasta Chemical Works

7. This plant [] was located in the small town of Kaznejov /4953N-1324E/, about 15 km. north of Pilsen. Founded in about 1910 and not recently expanded, this plant was quite small. Prior to World War II it was a part of the trust of David Stark Sons, Ltd., which in turn belonged to the Petschek Concern. Among its products were citric acid, tartaric acid, aluminum and chromium alums, and very small quantities of sulphuric acid. []

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[redacted] the plant had great difficulties in securing workers because most of the manpower in the region of Pilsen was absorbed by the Pilsen V.I. Lenin Works. [redacted] not know the name of the new plant director [redacted] The former plant manager, Dr. (fnu) SCHNEIDER, an engineer [redacted] was dismissed [redacted]

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Kolin Chemical Works

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8. [redacted] this plant [redacted] was situated in the outskirts of Kolin /5002N-1512E/, on the main road to Prague. It was quite an old plant which was constructed in the first part of this century. [redacted] it has not been expanded and no plans for expansion were under consideration. Its principal products were sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, and carbon disulphide [redacted]

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Prerov Chemical Works

9. This plant [redacted] was located near Prerov /4927N-1727E/. [redacted] it was very old and antiquated. It will undoubtedly be entirely closed down in the near future. [redacted] it produced some sulphuric acid.

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